

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INT-05 GSA-02 SAM-01 SP-02 H-02 PA-02

PRS-01 USIA-15 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 CIEP-02 LAB-04

SIL-01 OMB-01 L-02 /077 W
----- 053009

R 171006Z APR 75

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3850

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS JOHANNESBURG 0556

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELTN, ETRD, SF, MZ

SUBJ: U.S. CHROME ORE SUPPLY, SOUTH AFRICAN RAILWAYS AND MOZAMBIQUE

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

REF: A) STATE 84765; B) JOHANNESBURG 504; C) STATE 66608

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AGREEMENT REACHED IN JOHANNESBURG IN FEBRUARY AMONG CHROME ORE PRODUCERS, SOUTH AFRICAN RAILWAYS (SAR), AND TEIXEIRA OF CFM - MOZAMCUE, 70 PERCENT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN CHROME ORE EXPORTS IS ENTERING MOZAMBIQUE EARMARKED FOR A PARTICULAR VESSEL, 30 PERCENT IS TO BUILD UP EACH PRODUCER'S STOCK AT THE DEPLETED ORE DUMP IN LOURENCO MARQUES. THIS ARRANGEMENT IS TO PREVAIL UNTIL THE BACKLOG OF SHIPS WAITING AT THAT PORT IN FEBRUARY IS SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED.

2. ACCORDING TO CURRENT INFORMATION HERE, THERE ARE STILL SIX VESSELS FROM THE BACKLOG TO WHICH THAT ARRANGEMENT APPLIES WAITING THERE FOR CHROME ORE. THREE OF THEM SHOULD COMPLETE LOADING BY
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NEXT WEEK, THE OTHER THREE (THE LAST OF WHICH IS THE S.S.

CASVARINA) BY THE END OF THE MONTH.

3. AFTER THE CASVARINA, IT IS THE UNDERSTANDING OF PRODUCERS HERE THAT ALL CHROME ORE WILL BE SHIPPED BY EACH SOUTH AFRICAN PRODUCER TO HIS SECTION OF THE LOURENCO MARQUES ORE DUMP, WHILE EACH PRODUCER (OR HIS BROKER) ARRANGS FOR VESSELS TO COME LOAD IT. THIS IS THE TRADITIONAL PROCEDURE BUT IS NOT EXACTLY THE SAME THING AS FILLING SHIPS "IN SUCCESSION", IF THE LATTER PHRASE IS MEANT FILLING THEM STRICTLY IN THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY REACH LOURENCO MARQUES.

4. SAR IS CARRYING 100 CARS DAILY (4000 TONS) OF SOUTH AFRICAN CHROME ORE TO MOZAMBIQUE. THIS IS LITTLE BETTER THAN HALF THE VOLUME CONSIDERED NORMAL, BUT THE LOCAL IMPRESSION IS THAT THE CHROME-ORE SHIPMENT SITUATION IS IMPROVING, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY.

5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING LOURENCO MARQUES 347.
GUTHRIE

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NNN

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